

# **Department of Labor Awarded \$800,000 to Fund Apprenticeship Delaware**

**Wilmington, DE** – The Delaware Department of Labor has been awarded an \$800,000 federal grant to fund the Apprenticeship Delaware project.

The grant is part of a \$50.5 million investment in State Expansion Grants to expand apprenticeships across the country in a diverse array of industry sectors. The initiative, called Apprenticeship USA, is part of the Obama Administration's strategy to grow and diversify apprenticeships. Over the next 18 months, this effort will result in thousands of new apprenticeships in diverse industries, including health care, advanced manufacturing, and information technology, that offer workers not just jobs, but careers.

Through the project, Delaware will develop and launch outreach and marketing strategies to target both employers and potential registered apprentices within the information technology, architecture & construction, health sciences, hospitality & tourism, and manufacturing industries.

"We're extremely grateful to be awarded this grant as it will help further our efforts to create more career opportunities for Delaware residents," said Delaware DOL Secretary Patrice Gilliam-Johnson. "It's these kind of investments in people we need to continue making to keep moving our economy and workforce moving in the right direction."

The project will serve more than 1,500 Delaware apprentices over the next five years and will also focus on increasing opportunities for women, communities of color, minorities,

youth, and people with disabilities.

Apprenticeship Delaware's expansion efforts will support the goals of the Career Pathways Initiative which seeks to close the "skills gap" between workforce talent and employer demand by providing a path for all Delaware students to continue their education, and successfully maintain a livable wage.

#### **ABOUT THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

The Delaware Department of Labor connects people to jobs, resources, monetary benefits, workplace protections and labor market information to promote financial independence, workplace justice and a strong economy. The department is made up of four divisions:

[Division of Unemployment Insurance](#)

[Division of Industrial Affairs](#)

[Division of Vocational Rehabilitation](#)

[Office of Occupational and Labor Market Information](#)

The combined efforts of these divisions and offices support the employment-related needs of nearly 400,000 Delaware workers and more than 20,000 businesses throughout the state.